

Message Text

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SUBJECT: OMVS ON EVE OF MEETING WITH DONORS

REF: A) NOUAKCHOTT 1555; B) NOUAKCHOTT 1589

SUMMARY: WITH OMVS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING SCHEDULED OCT 16-17 IN DAKAR, CONSULTATIONS ARE BEING HELD ON THREE MAJOR PROBLEMS FACING COUNCIL: SELECTION OF NEW SECRETARY-

GENERAL, DIVISION OF COSTS BETWEEN THREE MEMBER STATES, AND

PROVISION OF CFA 26 BILLION NEEDED TO BEGIN WORK. SENEGALESE SOURCES OPTIMISTIC THAT FINAL STUDIES WILL BEGIN IN JANUARY '76.

1. ON EVE OF OMVS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING WITH DONORS, SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE OCT 16 AND 17 IN DAKAR, EMBOFFS MET SEPT. 20 WITH SENEGALESE TECHNICAL DIRECTOR, AMADOU MOKTAR SAKHO FOR TOUR D'HORIZON OF PROJECT. FOLLOWING IS INFORMATION GIVEN BY SAKHO ON MAJOR ISSUES EXPECTED TO BE DISCUSSED AT MEETING.

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2. COSTS: TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF PROJECT IS CFA 73 BILLION,

OR \$365 MILLION AT EXCHANGE RATE USED BY OMVS IN PREPARING ITS ESTIMATES. THIS BREAKS DOWN AS \$250 MILLION FOR MANANTALI, \$50 MILLION FOR DELTA DAM, AND \$65 MILLION FOR PORT NAVIGATION AND CONSTRUCTION AT ST.LOUIS.

3. PLEDGES ARE SUBSTANTIALLY AS REPORTED REF A WITH SOME CHANGES. FIGURES GIVEN BYSAKHO ARE AS FOLLOWS (BILLION CFA FRANCS):

CANADA 1.1 BILLION - PORT, HARBOR, NAVIGATION
FRANCE 4 BILLION - STUDY AND CONSTRUCTION OF DELTA DAM
SAUDI ARABIA 2.2 BILLION
KUWAIT 7.4 BILLION
FRG 4 BILLION - STUDY AND CONSTRUCTION OF MANANTALI
USAID 6.6 BILLION - ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY, IRRIGATED PERIMETERS
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK 14 MILLION
IBRD 6.6 BILLION
IRAN 1 BILLION
TOTAL CFA 46.9 BILLION
AMOUNT STILL TO BE FINANCED: CFA 26.1 BILLION

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND (FED) HAS BEEN ASKED FOR CFA 25 BILLION, BUT OMVS REALISTICALLY EXPECTS SOMEWHAT LESS FROM THIS SOURCE. SAKHO SAID COUNCIL WILL BE ASKED TO PROCEED WITH DAMS, TEMPORARILY SIDE-TRACKING PORT AND RIVER NAVIGATION, IF FULL AMOUNT CANNOT BE REALIZED AT ONCE.

4. SECRETARY GENERAL: A NUMBER OF NAMES HAVE BEEN MENTIONED AS REPLACEMENT FOR MOHAMMED OULD AMAR, CURRENT SECRETARY GENERAL WHO HAS BEEN NAMED MAURITANIAN MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT. SAKHO MENTIONED MAMADOU AW, FORMER MALIAN MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, AS ONE POSSIBILITY. RELATED PROPOSAL IS THAT COUNCIL WILL BE ASKED TO CREATE PERMANENT FULL-TIME MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY POSITION, AND DOWNGRADE THAT OF SECRETARY-GENERAL TO ADMINISTRATIVE ROLE.

5. CONSTRUCTION STUDIES: IT IS ALL BUT CERTAIN THAT ENGINEERING STUDIES FOR MANANTALI, DELTA, AND PORT WILL BE FINANCED BY WEST GERMANY, FRANCE AND CANADA RESPECTIVELY, AND ARRIVED OUT BY FIRMS CHOSEN BY THOSE COUNTRIES. STUDIES WILL TAKE TWO YEARS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO COMPLETE, STARTING IN EARLY 1976, BUT IT IS HOPED THAT CONSTRUCTION WILL BEGIN BEFORE THEY ARE COMPLETED.

6. DIVISION OF COSTS: MAURITANIA HAS TABLED PROPOSAL FOR EQUAL DIVISION OF COSTS, EACH STATE ASSUMING ONE-THIRD OF TOTAL.

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